

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 06996 01 OF 02 230956Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2286

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 6996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT MINISTERIAL SHIFTS IN KEY ECONOMIC MINISTRIES

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO APPROVING A RESOLUTION ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION, GIVING FIRST READING TO THE PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 1975, AND CONCLUDING OTHER ROUTINE BUSINESS, THE SEJM AT A PLENARY SESSION ON NOVEMBER 21 APPROVED SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT MINISTERIAL AND VICE MINISTERIAL CHANGES IN KEY ECONOMIC MINISTRIES. THE CHANGES INVOLVED THE MINISTRIES OF FINANCE; FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY; LABOR, WAGES, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS; CHEMICAL INDUSTRY; AGRICULTURE; AND MINING AND POWER. THE SIX NEW APPOINTEES ARE ALL ON THE YOUNG
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 06996 01 OF 02 230956Z

SIDE (45 TO 53), SEVERAL HAVE IMPRESSIVE ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS, AND THEY APPEAR TO BELONG TO THE NEW GIEREK BREED OF TALENTED

TECHNOCRATS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL MANEUVERING IN THESE CHANGES; RATHER, IT APPEARS TO BE A CONCENTRATED EFFORT BY THE GIEREK ADMINISTRATION TO IDENTIFY AND EMPLOY ITS MOST TALENTED MANAGERIAL TALENT IN THE KEY AREAS OF THE ECONOMY WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF GIEREK'S POLICY. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT THIS POINT THAT THESE SHIFTS PRESAGE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. OLSZEWSKI REPLACES OLSZEWSKI. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WAS THE MOVING OF JERZY OLSZEWSKI FROM THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY, WHERE HE WILL REPLACE KAZIMIERZ OLSZEWSKI. THE LATTER, WHO CONTINUES TO SERVE AS VICE PREMIER, REPORTEDLY WILL REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING THE OVERALL WORK OF THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES INVOLVED IN SOME WAY IN FOREIGN COMMERCE. REPORTING THE CHANGE, PAP NOTED THAT THE GROWTH OF TRADE AND SHIPPING REQUIRES DIRECT SUPERVISION BY A MAN NOT BURDENED WITH OTHER DUTIES AS WAS KAZIMIERZ OLSZEWSKI WHEN HE WORE BOTH THE MINISTERIAL AND VICE PREMIER'S HATS. COMMENT: FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT THE POLICY OF HAVING VICE PREMIERS ALSO SERVE AS MINISTERS HAD PROVED HIGHLY INEFFECTIVE AND THAT KAZIMIERZ OLSZEWSKI WOULD SOON FOLLOW MITREGA IN GIVING UP HIS MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO AND REVERT TO PERFORMING ONLY AS A VICE PREMIER. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, HEARD ANY SPECIFIC CRITICISM OF OLSZEWSKI'S PERFORMANCE IN EITHER ROLE. JERZY OLSZEWSKI HAS A REPUTATION AS A DYNAMIC ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS PERFORMED WITH GREAT EFFECTIVENESS IN EVERY JOB HE HAS EVER HELD. HE IS NOT A STRANGEER TO FOREIGN TRADE, HAVING HEADED THE SEJM'S COMMISSION ON FOREIGN TRADE FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN THE MID-1960'S. INTERESTINGLY, HIS BIOGRAPHIC FILE CONTAINS A REPORT THAT A FEW YEARS AGO HE HAD BEEN KNOWN TO CRITICIZE CEMA AS CUMBERSOME, BUREUCRATIC CLEARING HOUSE. END COMMENT.

3. MACIEJ WIROWSKI, WHO WAS NAMED TO REPLACE JERZY OLSZEWSKI AS MINISTER OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, HAS HAD A CAREER COMPOSED MAINLY OF A SUCCESSION OF APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL MANAGERIAL JOBS IN THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS HE HAS BEEN A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION. LIKE
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PAGE 03 WARSAW 06996 01 OF 02 230956Z

JERZY OLSZEWSKI, WIROWSKI IS ORIGINALLY FROM SILESIA.

4. IN ANOTHER SHIFT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE, HENRYK KISIEL MOVES UP FROM FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY TO BECOME MINISTER OF FINANCE. KISIEL REPLACES STEFAN JEDRYCHOWSKI, WHO WILL GET AN AMBASSADORSHIP IN AN EASTERN EUROPEAN POST (BUDAPEST, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD). COMMENT: KISIEL HAS BEEN GIVEN VERY HIGH MARKS BY EVERYONE HERE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS FOR HIS SKILLED PERFORMANCE IN THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND, SINCE FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, AS FIRST VICE

MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY. KISIEL HAS A STRONG BACKGROUND IN FINANCIAL ECONOMICS. WE BELIEVE THAT HIS APPOINTMENT IS AT LEAST PARTLY AN ATTEMPT TO STRENGTHEN THE POST OF MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHICH MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST. AN EXPERIENCED POLISH NEWSPAPER EDITOR COMMENTED TO US ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT THAT KISIEL IS SIMPLY THE BEST MAN FOR THIS JOB WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PORTFOLIO RIGHT NOW. ONE SOURCE TOLD US THAT KISIEL, A FORMER VICE-MINISTER OF FINANCE AND STILL CHAIRMAN OF THE BANK HANDLOWY (POLISH FOREIGN-TRADE BANK), IS EXPECTED TO ENFORCE GREATER "FISCAL DISCIPLINE" IN POLISH FOREIGN TRADE. END COMMENT.

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 06996 02 OF 02 231036Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 6996

5. THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL CHANGE WAS THAT OF TADEUSZ RUDOLF

REPLACING WINCENTY KAWALEC AS MINISTER OF LABOR, WAGES, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. RUDOLF HAS SPENT THE LAST TWO YEARS AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS. HIS PREVIOUS CAREER HAD BEEN ENTIRELY IN PARTY POSITIONS, BOTH AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPARATUS. COMMENT: RUDOLF COULD BE A PROTEGE OF BABIUCH, SINCE HIS BIOGRAPHY SHOWS THAT HE WAS BABIUCH'S DEPUTY FROM 1964-68 WHEN BABIUCH WAS DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN ANY CASE, RUDOLF CLEARLY IS SOMEONE'S CHOICE TO ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE LABOR SCENE UNDER CONTROL, SOMETHING THAT HIS PREDECESSOR KAWALEC IS APPARENTLY CONSIDERED INCAPABLE OF DOING, JUDGING BY REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED ACCORDING TO A MINISTRY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WARSAW 06996 02 OF 02 231036Z

OF LABOR OFFICIAL, KAWALEC IS BEING RETIRED. THE SAME OFFICIAL LATER TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER IN A CAUTIOUS CORRIDOR COMMENT THAT KAWALEC HAD MADE SOME "SERIOUS ECONOMIC ERRORS" AND HAD TO GO. THE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT KOWALEC HAD A "BLOODY REPUTATION" IN THE MINISTRY, HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS OR ANYONE ELSE, AND NO ONE WILL MOURN HIS DEPARTURE. A POLISH JOURNALIST TOLD ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER THAT KAWALEC WAS A GOOD STATISTICIAN BUT COULD NOT WORK WITH PEOPLE AND IT WAS A GOOD THING HE WAS LEAVING THE MINISTRY. ADDITIONALLY, HE WAS BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SLOPPY WORK ON THE NEW LABOR CODE, WHICH HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE "FULL OF LOOPHOLES" AND "HAS ALREADY CAUSED LOTS OF PROBLEMS." IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE GIEREK ADMINISTRATION HAS FOUND KOWALEC WANTING IN ADMINISTERING ITS LABOR AND WAGE POLICIES AND BLAMES HIS INADEQUACIES FOR SOME OF THE LABOR PROBLEMS IT HAS EXPERIENCED THIS YEAR. END COMMENT.

6. IN LOWER-LEVEL CHANGES, ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY IN THE CENTRAL PRESS ON NOVEMBER 22, EUGENIUSZ MAZURKIEWICZ, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, AS BEEN NAMED A VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. ADDITIONALLY, TWO VICE MINISTERS OF MINING AND POWER, JAN KUCZMA AND TADEUSZ DRYZEK, WERE REMOVED. THE FORMER WILL GO TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL POSITION, THE LATTER WILL BE RETIRED. COMMENT: BARCIKOWSKI MAY HAVE WANTED TO BRING MAZURKIEWICZ INTO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO HELP HIM IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE AMBITIOUS NEW AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD INDUSTRY PROGRAM. HOWEVER, ONE POLISH JOURNALISTIC SOURCE TOLD US THAT THIS IS AN INDICATION THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY PINKOWSKI IS SQUEEZING BARCIKOWSKI OUT OF DAY-TO-DAY PARTY CONTROL OVER AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THE REMOVAL OF KUCZMA AND DRYZEK PROBABLY REPRESENTS A CONTINUING HOUSE-CLEANING IN THE MINISTRY OF MINING AND POWER BY THE NEW MINISTER. INTERESTINGLY, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, DRYZEK IS A FORMER VICE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR TECHNICAL OPERATIONS (I.E., BUGGING AND THE LIKE) WHO WAS SHUNTED OFF TO THE MINING

MINISTRY IN 1971 BY THE GIEREK TEAM AND NOW IS BEING "RETIRED"
AT THE AGE OF 49. END COMMENT.

7. GENERAL COMMENT: MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY
APPEARS TO BE THE AIM OF THESE MINISTERIAL CHANGES. THE NEW
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PAGE 03 WARSAW 06996 02 OF 02 231036Z

MINISTERIAL APPOINTEES ARE RELATIVELY YOUNG, YET BRING
IMPRESSIVE ACADEMIC AND MANAGERIAL CREDENTIALS TO THEIR JOBS.
KISIEL AND OLSZEWSKI ARE BOTH 53, AND WIROWSKI AND RUDOLF
ARE 45 AND 48 RESPECTIVELY. KISIEL, OLSZEWSKI, AND WIROWSKI
HAVE ALL WORKED ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION IN RECENT YEARS
FOR VICE PREMIER JAGIELSKI, THE PUTATIVE EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR
TO PREMIER JAROSIEWICZ. THE FOUR MINISTRIES INVOLVED ARE KEY
ONES IN THE ECONOMY. FOREIGN TRADE AND SHIPPING HAVE GROWN IN
IMPORTANCE IN RECENT YEARS. THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY HAS A
PIVOTAL ROLE RELATED TO POLAND'S GROWING REQUIREMENTS FOR OIL
AND PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS IN INDUSTRY AND, RECENTLY, IT HAS
ASSUMED ADDED IMPORTANCE TO SUPPORT THE REGIME'S AMBITIOUS
NEW AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM.

8. A KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF ALL OF POLAND'S CURRENT AND
PLANNED HEAVY INVESTMENT IS PROPER MANAGEMENT OF ITS FINANCES.
KISIEL WOULD BE A LOGICAL CHOICE TO TRY TO GET THIS SITUATION
UNDER CONTROL AS THE ECONOMY ENTERS A CRUCIAL PHASE DURING THE
NEXT YEAR OR SO WHEN JUDGEMENTS WILL BE MADE CONCERNING THE
SUCCESS OF GIEREK'S POLICIES ON CONSUMER ORIENTATION, STEPPING
UP TRADE WITH THE WEST, AND MAKING AMBITIOUS INVESTMENT PRO-
JECTS PAY OFF. PRESUMABLY, GIEREK, JAROSZEWICZ, AND JAGIELSKI
BELIEVE THAT THE THREE FORMER COLLEAGUES FROM THE PLANNING
COMMISSION -- KISIEL, JERZY OLSZEWSKI, AND WIROWSKI, WILL BE
ABLE TO WORK EFFECTVELY TOGETHER TOWARD THIS END.
DAVIES

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